

TEST

Prefer

TESTED BY FIRE

⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

I PETER 1:6

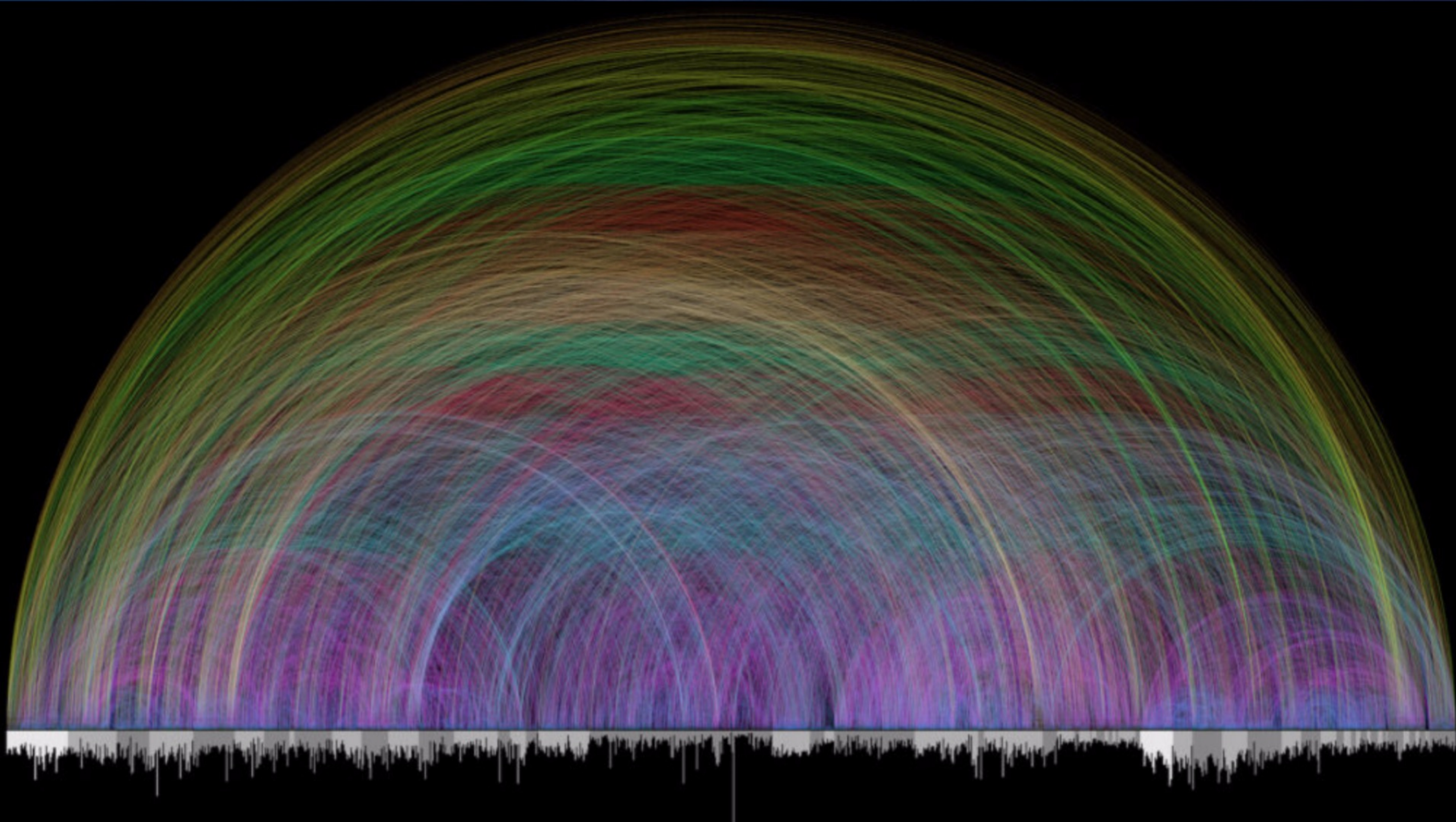
¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:1, 14

¹⁷Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

JOHN 17:17



¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

JOHN 1:12-13

¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...

II TIMOTHY 3:16

“...when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God.”

1 THESSALONIANS 2:13

- 1:3-4 An imperishable inheritance
- 1:18-19 The imperishable blood of Christ
- 1:23 The imperishable seed – Jesus Christ the Word became flesh

- Hebrews 4 - penetrates the soul and spirit, and judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
- Jeremiah - it is like a hammer that breaks rocks into pieces.
- 2 Timothy 3 - equips us.
- Isaiah 55 - it never returns void.

Ancient Manuscript

Detail Comparisons

AUTHOR WORK	WHEN WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPY	TIME SPAN	NO. OF COPIES
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,000 yrs.	10
Livy	59 B.C.-A.D. 17	300 A.D.	400 yrs.	20
Plato (Tetralogies)	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,200 yrs.	7
Tacitus (Annals)	100 A.D.	1,100 A.D.	1,000 yrs.	20
also minor works	100 A.D.	1,000 A.D.	900 yrs.	1
Pliny the Younger (History)	61-113 A.D.	850 A.D.	750 yrs.	7
Thucydides (History)	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs.	8
Suetonius (De Vita Caesarum)	75-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 yrs.	8
Herodotus (History)	480-425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs.	8
Horace			900 yrs.	
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1,400 yrs.	193
Lucretius	Died 55 or 53 B.C.		1,100 yrs.	2
Catullus	54 B.C.	1550 A.D.	1,600 yrs.	3
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1,500 yrs.	9
Demosthenes	383-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1,300 yrs.	200 all from 1 copy
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1,400 yrs.	49 of any one work
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,200 yrs.	10
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs.	643
New Testament	40-100 A.D.	125 A.D.	25 yrs.	24,000+
Old Testament	800-400 B.C.	250-200 B.C.	150 yrs.	14,000+

The science of Textual Criticism, has 3 tests:

- 1) Proximity - How close to the event was the document written?
- 2) Frequency - How many copies of the event are in possession?
- 3) Corruption - How significant are the differences?

How does the Bible reliability compare
with Classical Antiquity peers?

	The New and Old Testaments	All Others
<i>Proximity</i>	Earliest within 100 years of originals. Fragments of some to within 50 years.	From 400 to 1500 years Distant
<i>Frequency</i>	The # of copies are 39,000+	From 2 to 643
<i>Corruption</i>	Of 20,000 N.T. lines of text, 40 lines in doubt (1/2 of 1 %) (differences cause no appreciable significance)	Not enough copies to determine accurately

<http://home.comcast.net/~TommyPages/ReliableBible.html>

¹⁹This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast...

HEBREWS 6:19

⁴⁷Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

LUKE 6:47-48

¹¹The LORD will **guide** you continually, And satisfy
your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones;
You shall be like a watered garden, And like a
spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

ISAIAH 58:11

- Purified our souls through the Spirit
- Given us rebirth
- Graciously grows us
- Our Chief and Precious Cornerstone
- A stone of stumbling to the disobedient
- Chose us to be a royal priesthood
- Called us out of darkness
- Made us Him

- Love one another fervently with a pure heart
- Lay aside all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and evil speaking
- Desire the pure milk of the Word
- Come to Him as our living Cornerstone chosen by God
- Come to him as living stones being built up into a spiritual house
- Offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God
- Proclaim the praises of Him
- Abstain from fleshly lust, having conduct that is honorable among the Gentiles.